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KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT
HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH
for the Year
1950

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	... ..	M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Terminated duties on 31st Oct., 1950) O. M. HOLDEN, G.M., M.D., M.B., D.P.H. (Acting Part-Time). (Appointed 13th Nov., 1950). L. N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Commenced duties on 29th Jan., 1951).
Clerk	... ..	G. PROSSER.
Sanitary Inspector (Part-time)	...	R. P. MORRIS, A.R.S.I. (Telephone: Kingston 31)

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.
Telephone No.: Leominster 95.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1950, which has been compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 112/50.

During 1950, three houses were completed by private persons and none by the Authority. The problem of housing is most pressing and it is to be hoped the Authority can see their way to press forward with their building plans.

Sewage treatment and disposal at Kington remains unsatisfactory. The present filtration beds are inadequate to deal with the Town's present sewage output as has been proved by the unsatisfactory effluents. The only satisfactory solution can be a new disposal plant designed to meet present and future requirements.

Prevalence of infectious disease during the year remained remarkably low and consisted of five cases of Measles and one of Puerperal Pyrexia. It is satisfactory to note that no case of Poliomyelitis has occurred within the Urban District during the past twenty years, and it can claim therefore to be one of the few areas in this country that has this record. It is to be hoped this immunity will continue.

Diphtheria Immunisation statistics for the country show that over nine million children in England and Wales have now been immunised against diphtheria during the last 10 years. As a consequence, the annual deaths have been reduced from 2,800 to about 95 and cases from 55,000 to less than 2,000 for the country.

A drop of 27,000 immunisations during the first half of 1950 coupled with the observation that because of the vast reduction in diphtheria parents become less alive to the dangers of the disease, prove that renewed efforts must be made to sustain the campaign if valuable ground is not to be lost.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Morris, your Sanitary Inspector, for the assistance he has afforded me.

L. N. GOULD,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	857
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,983
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to the Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	572
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£9,743
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£39

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:—

		Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate)	...	16	13	3
(Illegitimate)	...	5	3	2
	TOTAL	21	16	5
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate)	...	—	—	—
(Illegitimate)	...	—	—	—
	TOTAL	—	—	—
DEATHS	...	22	11	11
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	...	—	—	—
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate)	...	1	1	—
(Illegitimate)	...	—	—	—

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1950:

Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	10.6
Birth rate for England and Wales	...	...	15.8
Still Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	Nil
Still Birth rate for England and Wales	...	...	0.37
Death rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population)	...	...	11.1
Death rate for England and Wales	...	...	11.6
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	47.6
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales	...	...	29.8

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are available at the County Public Health Laboratory. Since the end of the year the Laboratory has moved from the County Offices to new premises at the County Hospital, Hereford.

CLINICS

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:—

Child Welfare Centre: In the Church Hall, Kington, on alternate Tuesdays at 2.0 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Speech Therapy, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. R. P. Morris, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION

WATER SUPPLY

The supply of water during the year has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

The following samples have been taken during the year:—

- 3 Direct from the Spring without chlorination.
- 7 From taps in the Town from main.
- 2 From taps in the higher part of the Town.

A new Chlorinator has been installed during the year and works very satisfactory. A little pollution was noticeable in the early part of the year; this was traced and after the necessary work was carried out the samples have been very satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Now new sewers have been constructed during the year. The sewage beds have had new filtering medium added to them and several faulty places have been adjusted in the beds. A new retaining wall has been constructed along the lower end by the river and the beds now give a slower and better filtering.

Two samples have been taken from the river and two from the effluent. The two from the river taken 100 yards from entry of effluent were satisfactory but the two taken from the effluent were not quite up to the standard required but an improvement on the previous sample.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Owing to the large quantity of water flowing it was not necessary to take a large number of samples as in the previous dry Summer. The Wye Catchment Board took several samples from both Arrow and Back Brook. They found pollution in the Back Brook which was rather serious; this was caused by a leak in a drain from the Laundry. This matter was put right.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

This is carried out in the same manner as in previous years and no nuisances arise from the disposal.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The District is regularly inspected and complaints investigated. The owners are written to and their attention drawn to the defects and a fairly good response is forthcoming. During the year no Statutory Notices were required.

Defects Remedied:—

Defective drains repaired	...	...	38
Water Closets repaired	...	...	9
New Water Closets put in	...	...	2
Drains tested	...	...	4
Drain Traps renewed	...	...	16
Sinks repaired and new ones fitted	...	...	11
Defective water taps repaired	...	...	15
Premises disinfected	...	...	4

Notices issued:—

Informal	...	...	...	52
Statutory	...	...	...	Nil

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There are 11 Factories and 27 Workshops within the district. These are regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1.—Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	11	19	—	—
2.—Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—	—
3.—Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises ...)	27	32	—	—
TOTAL ...	38	51	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1) ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S. 3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilations (S. 4) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) ...	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	1	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	1	1	—	—

CAMPING SITES

There are no Camping Sites within the District.

DISINFECTION

Four premises were disinfected during the year following deaths.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Number of Council Houses built during the year ... Nil
 Number of Houses built by private persons—Permanent Brick ... 3
 Houses are still needed to ease the position of overcrowding.

Categories of houses	1	2	3	4	5	Total
(1) Number of privately owned premises, residential, working-class flats or rooms over shops	379	56	48	—	14	497
(2) Number of Council Houses ...	53	—	—	—	—	53
(3) Number of derelict or void houses not demolished ...	—	—	—	—	6	6

Category 1 — Satisfactory.

„ 2 — Minor Defects.

„ 3 — Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.

„ 4 — Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

„ 5 — Requiring demolition and replacement.

INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected ...	38
(b) Number of Inspections made ...	129
(c) Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	4

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts ...	Nil
Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	4
Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owner ...	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owner ...	Nil

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD PREMISES

Regular Inspections are made. The general standard of cleanliness is good.

FOOD CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Canned Milk ...	282 Tins
Bottled Fruit ...	34 Bottles
Canned Vegetables ...	17 Tins
Fish (fresh) ...	235 lbs.
Canned Vegetables and Meat ...	54 Tins
Sausages ...	33 lbs.
Cured Bacon ...	51 lbs.
Dried Fruit ...	16 lbs.
Sauces ...	9 Tins

All food found unfit is destroyed in the incinerator except meat condemned at a Butcher's premises; this is returned to the slaughterhouse concerned.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT														
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	Over 40	Unknown	Total
Measles	...	1	1			1	2								5
Puerperal Pyrexia															1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1950 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1936).

Age at 31. 12 50	Total										Estimated Mid-Year child population, 1950	Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15	Under 5	5-14		
i.e. Born in year	49	48	47	46	45	41-	36-					
	—	9	33	36	27	128	154	387	169	291		460

These figures indicate that 62.1% of the child population under five years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 62.5% at the end of 1949. 96.9% of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 99.0% at the end of the previous year. To sum up, 84.1% of the children under 15 years of age has been immunised compared with 85.2% for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1950, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of ten males and nine females who normally reside within the district.

During the year, five new cases were notified, all on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

During the same period, two deaths of persons suffering from Tuberculosis occurred, two left the district and one recovered.

The following figures give a comparison of the number of persons suffering from Tuberculosis in each of the Local Authority districts in Northern Herefordshire:—

			Prevalence of Tuberculosis per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
Bromyard Urban	...	...	7.3
Bromyard Rural	...	...	4.9
Kington Urban	...	...	9.6
Kington Rural	...	...	9.1
Leominster Borough	...	...	7.0
Leominster & Wigmore Rural	...	...	7.0
Weobley Rural	...	...	10.1

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
1.—Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	—	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	—	—	—
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	—	—	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	—	—
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ...	—	—	—
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17.—Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	—	1	1
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	1	1	2
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	—	—	—
20. Other heart disease	3	6	9
21. Other circulatory disease ...	—	1	1
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	—	—	—
24. Bronchitis	2	1	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	—	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	—	3
33. Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—
34. All other accidents	—	—	—
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	—	—	—
All causes ...			22